

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 28, 2004 and in response to a telephone conversation with Examiner Trinh on December 9, 2004. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, and 18 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-14, 16, and 18-20 are allowed.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully believes the amendment to Claims 15 adequately responds to the § 112, second paragraph rejection and requests its withdrawal.

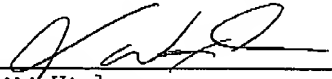
Further on the merits, the Office Action rejected Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kung (U.S. Patent No. 6,037,825; hereinafter "Kung"). Applicant respectfully believes the § 102(b) rejection to be moot in light of the cancellation of Claim 17 and requests its withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied

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references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees and fees for claims added upon amendment, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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